

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

It is respectfully requested that this amendment and reply be considered and entered, since it places this application in condition for allowance.

Claims 9, 10 and 13 are currently being cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

No claims are currently being amended.

No claims are currently being added.

This amendment cancels claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claims remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

After amending the claims as set forth above, claims 5-7 are now pending in this application.

Applicants appreciate the indication in the Office Action that claims 5-7 are allowed.

In the Office Action, claims 9, 10 and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,104,521 to Iizuka in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,159,193 to Shiraishi et al. Due to the cancellation of claims 9, 10 and 13, this rejection has been rendered moot.

Accordingly, since there are no other objections or rejections raised in the Office Action, Applicants believe that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and an early indication of allowance is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

Phillip J. Articola
Pavan K. Agarwal
Registration No. 40,888

FOLEY & LARDNER
Customer Number: 22428
Telephone: (202) 945-6162
Facsimile: (202) 672-5399

Phillip J. Articola
Registration No. 38,819